

the crowd that while he had political differences with the Congresswoman's mother it didn't stop him from vigorously backing "Yvette" and helping to raise money for her. "I feel like I won too," said Perry who dropped out of the Congressional race early last year and then threw his support behind Clarke. "She will do great things for America. She is young and bright."

State Senator John Sampson was another of the elected office holders, who at the urging of both "Yvette" and her mother, not only backed her drive for the House but contributed campaign funds and material support. He became philosophical when he invoked the presence and role of the Almighty God in people's lives and reminded the Congressperson that prosperity and success breed many friends but "adversity proves them."

State Senator Kevin Parker, who had declined to back Clarke during the Primary, supporting Karl Andrews, at the time a State Senator from Brooklyn instead, said that he too was confident "Yvette" would succeed in Washington. In his brief remarks, the Borough President, who sat out the Congressional race by opting not to endorse any of the four candidates, said the new House member was "committed to public service."

Dr. Kendal Stewart, a City Councilman, joined in the chorus of praise, saying her victory was a reminder to immigrants and their children, "those who came by plane or by boat" that they too could succeed and perhaps follow in "Yvette's" footsteps.

Dr. Edison Jackson, President of the highly successful Medgar Evers College, put it differently, describing the lawmaker as a worthy "advocate" of the community that sent her to Capitol Hill.

When the time came for Clarke to respond after wiping away tears, she spoke out against the Iraq war and the Bush Administration's misplaced priorities which had resulted in \$130 billion needed to fix schools in the 11th Congressional District and elsewhere in the City, State and country being diverted to the Persian Gulf to finance a conflict "we don't want."

She said that as a member of the House's Committee that monitors the work of the Department of Homeland Security, she had already backed a measure, which would bring more funds into the City for the Police and Fire Departments as well as the Emergency Medical services.

Congresswoman Clarke insisted that the City urgently needed funds, federal dollars, for its schools, drug treatment programs and other social services. She took time out to thank the community, the hard-working campaign volunteers, staff and others who "came together" and worked to place her in Congress.

"I am thankful," she said.

She spoke about her parents, Leslie Clarke, father, and Una Clarke, mother, for the way they raised her, and the rest of the family from Jamaica who instilled core values in her.

With the Rev. Barbara Lucas as "the officiating minister, the celebration featured a mix of ecumenical blessings offered by a variety of religious ministers, including a Jewish Rabbi; dances by young performers of different cultural backgrounds; inspirational songs by a plethora of artists, among them was Brooklyn Temple Seventh Day Adventist mass choir; steelband music by members CASYM, a youth orchestra; and a celebratory procession by the Panamanian Marching Band. Dr. Harold Robinson, Trinidad and Tobago Consul-General, summed up the situation when he said that the Caribbean, the source of Congresswoman Clarke's early strength, might consist of countries with different languages but "we are all one."

Cynthia Brown-Franklin, Panama's Vice Consul-General, said afterwards "great things are expected of the Congresswoman and she will deliver on those dreams."

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
STANLEY W. TAYLOR, JR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the career of Stanley W. Taylor. Stan has served in Delaware's Department of Correction for 30 years. He has proven to be a tough and formidable leader in an organization that requires exceptional skill, knowledge, and dedication. I commend Mr. Taylor for his years of service.

Stanley W. Taylor has been a Delaware resident since the age of 5. He was educated at Indian River High School and the University of Delaware. He began his career with the Department of Correction in 1976 when he served as a correctional officer at the Sussex Correctional Institution. He quickly moved through the ranks at Sussex Correctional, being promoted to the positions of correctional counselor, training academy director, security superintendent, and warden.

Stan's hard work and skill was recognized when he was promoted to chief of the Bureau of Prisons, a position in which he was responsible for all prison operations. When Department of Correction Commissioner Robert Watson retired in 1995, my colleague Senator TOM CARPER, who at the time was serving as Governor of Delaware, appointed Stan Taylor to serve as commissioner of the Department of Correction.

For more than 10 years, Stan Taylor has overseen an organization that is responsible for over 6,500 incarcerated offenders, over 18,000 probationers, and more than 10 correctional facilities. He is the first person in the history of the First State to begin his career as a correctional officer and rise through the ranks to eventually lead the Department of Correction as its commissioner.

I join with the people of Delaware to thank Stan for his continued dedication to the correctional system. He has served in a role that can be difficult at times, but is a necessity to the security of our State. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, January 22, I was unavoidably detained in my home district and unable to record my roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote #46.

HONORING BOBBY L. MAXWELL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bobby L. Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell may not be familiar to you or to most of America, but on January 23rd, he accomplished something that the Bush Administration has failed to do for the last six years: hold oil companies accountable.

During recent consideration of H.R. 6, the Creating Long-term Energy Alternatives for the Nation or CLEAN Act, our Democratic majority called attention to the fact that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) at the Department of the Interior has failed to collect millions of dollars of royalties from oil and gas companies drilling in public waters. The Administration has largely ignored this problem and possible negligence by top officials at Interior, but last week's federal court decision that the Kerr-McGee Corporation has underpaid the government by approximately \$7.5 million should serve as a wake up call on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Unlike the Director of the Minerals Management Service and others at Interior, Bobby Maxwell did not turn a blind eye to the problem of oil companies underpaying or refusing to pay royalties for the use of public lands. Mr. Maxwell used to serve as a top auditor at MMS, but while he was doing his job investigating royalty underpayment by Kerr-McGee and others, senior Interior Department officials ordered him to drop his case. Additionally, Mr. Maxwell lost his job due to a "reorganization" shortly thereafter.

Bobby Maxwell did not give up, though. He knew that Kerr-McGee and others were cheating the Federal government and the American taxpayers out of millions of dollars, so he became a whistleblower. Despite having lost his job, Mr. Maxwell continued to stand up to the oil companies by bringing suit under the False Claims Act.

The jury found what Mr. Maxwell and many of us already knew: Kerr-McGee had indeed failed to pay the Federal government approximately \$7.5 million they owed for oil production from publicly owned coastal waters. I regret that Mr. Maxwell had to lose his job to expose the greed of this company and the failures at MMS, but his story is a positive one. Both he and the Federal government will benefit from his diligence and service. Kerr-McGee will have to pay significant penalties as a result of underpayment and false statements in their royalty reports. Additionally, Mr. Maxwell is not alone—three other auditors from MMS have filed whistleblowing cases against companies that the Interior Department blocked them from investigating.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Maxwell and these other dedicated public servants deserve our recognition and gratitude. They have stood up and declared that the public's trust and money both deserve our attention, respect, and protection. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Maxwell and congratulating him on a job well done. Let us follow his example by continuing to put accountability ahead of corporate profits.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS RYAN HILL

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I am here today in this hallowed hall with a heavy heart and troubled spirit.

Here, but a few hours ago, we assembled in keeping with an annual ritual that proclaimed our Union to be strong, our nation to be sound.

Sadly, I must contest that notion.

We are not as strong as we could be, as we should be, we are not what we would be without Private First Class Ryan Hill.

For this past week, Private Hill was killed in Baghdad, Iraq. As a member of the 1st Infantry Division, he and his unit were performing duties in keeping with our efforts to foster peace and stability.

America lost someone special when we lost Ryan. He represented the better angels of our nature, he was the kind of young American we need more, not less.

Immediately following high school, Private First Class Hill joined the military to fight for his country, his community—to fight for his family and friends.

Far too often we find ourselves standing here, recognizing the loss of heroes.

Private Hill died while on patrol. Using an improvised explosive device—a weapon without honor, without conscience—our enemies stole from us the America that would have been.

Right now, the community of Keizer, Oregon is seeking comfort in the life and noble sacrifice of Ryan Hill.

This we must do; he answered the call of service voluntarily and fulfilled his duty without hesitation, without complaint.

Private First Class Hill was a model soldier, he was the kind of young man that made everyone around him better.

In correspondence home, he recognized the dangers—he knew well the price of freedom—and yet he soldiered on despite his situation.

His enthusiasm and compassion made Ryan a beacon of hope for his comrades in arms in the shadow of the loss of several friends just a short time ago.

That shadow is now a little denser, a little darker—it reaches farther than before. And this shadow makes the future, our future, less than what it would have been.

I am here today asking us all to consider well the choices before us. We have an opportunity to ensure the life and death of Private Ryan Hill are not forgotten, that his sacrifice endures within our memory.

Let us recommit ourselves to making this Nation a place worthy of the gift Ryan Hill has given us; let us commit ourselves anew.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR
HERMAN M. WILLIAMSON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the out-

standing lifelong accomplishments of Reverend Doctor Herman M. Williamson. A resident of Havre de Grace, Maryland, Reverend Dr. Williamson is a native of Evergreen, North Carolina, where he attended public schools and graduated with honors. After moving to Baltimore, Maryland, he completed studies at the Cortez Peters Business College. Reverend Dr. Williamson continued his education in engineering and administrative procedures in the Officers School while serving for five years in the United States Army. After his military service, Reverend Dr. Williamson attended Morgan State College.

After moving to Havre de Grace, Maryland, he joined and attended St. James A.M.E. Church before being called to the ministry. Reverend Dr. Williamson decided to return to his roots in the Baptist Church and joined Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. He was licensed to preach and served as Assistant Pastor to the late Reverend Milton C. Phillips. During this time, he completed his course of study at the Maryland Bible Institute. He was called to the pastorate of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church on October 25, 1974 and two days later accepted the pulpit of the Havre de Grace church.

Over the years, Reverend Dr. Williamson has been an advocate of faithful service and positive change to assist the members of his church and the residents of Harford County. His outreach to the communities in and surrounding Havre de Grace has been unsurpassed. He supported and was instrumental in the establishment of the Harford County Fuel Fund, the Harford County Food and Nutrition Program and the St. James Cemetery Preservation Council. He is President Emeritus of the Deacon and Deaconess Union of Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties and President Emeritus of the Ministerial Alliance of Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties. He has also served as auditor of the United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries for the State of Maryland, Inc.

Reverend Dr. Williamson was the first black chaplain appointed to serve the Harford County Detention Center. He served on the Executive Board of the Harford Interfaith Community Service, Inc., the Neighbor to Neighbor Summit Advisory Committee for Harford County and the Hicks Advisory Board of Harford County. He was granted an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the Bread of Life Ministries in Whiteville, North Carolina, in February 2002. In early 2007, Reverend Dr. Williamson was the recipient of the Joseph Bond Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from Harford County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in congratulating Reverend Dr. Herman Williamson for his lifelong and caring devotion to the people of Havre de Grace, Harford County, and the State of Maryland.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NYS
ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN LAVELLE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the House's attention the tremendously sad news of the passing of a dear

friend and fellow public servant. I rise today also to honor the memory, and take note of the tireless public service of, my good friend, the late New York State Assemblyman Jack Lavelle.

Jack and I were colleagues in the New York State Assembly from 2000, when he arrived as a freshman, until the end of 2004, when I left Albany after my initial election to Congress.

Madam Speaker, I do not exaggerate when I recount that it was a tremendous honor to serve with Jack, for I greatly valued his counsel, leadership, and friendship. More than that, what I will miss most about Jack is his tremendously warm and kindhearted spirit.

We always knew where Jack was from—his beloved borough of Staten Island. More importantly, Jack never forgot where he was from. Despite being from opposite ends of the state and being of different generations, Jack and I shared a commitment to our respective communities that I am proud to believe was very similar. Both of us were fortunate to learn early on that when you remember where you come from, when you follow the rules, love your family, and give back to your community anything is possible. Jack Lavelle was living proof of that.

Jack's public career was well known, and the respect Jack enjoyed from leaders throughout the state was impressive. Jack's history of community involvement is far too long to list in its entirety, but his work with countless educational committees, community boards and medical advisory councils were well known and well respected.

In November 2000, Jack's succession of revered Assemblywoman Betty Connelly allowed him to continue her legacy of commitment to Staten Island. So many of Jack's successes in Albany involved education, where he made great strides toward the improvement of New York City's public schools.

Jack always spoke with tremendous pride about his family, including his three sons, John, Christopher, and Danny and his grandchildren Jacob, Zachary and Julia. I am certain that all members of the House join with me to offer our most sincere condolences to Jack's family, lost so suddenly as he was.

When I think back about Jack, I think of how tremendously kind he was to me. Although ten years my senior in age, Jack often called me "Governor," because he always said, "Kid, you're going somewhere." When I announced my run for an open Congressional seat in 2004, Jack was among the first to call and offer encouragement. His friendship and support were as genuine as can be.

We all join with Jack's family in mourning his loss, and remain confident that the good work that he did, both in Staten Island and in Albany, has left a powerful legacy for many years to come. Rest in peace, Jack Lavelle; your work here is done, but your legacy will live on for years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CÉSAR E.
CHÁVEZ POST OFFICE ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who stood